2nd March 1929]

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :— "Not with reference to this particular matter."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"May I enquire whether the hon. the Law Member is justified in stating constantly that he refuses to call for the information on the ground of public interests ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Is the question put to me ?"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Yes, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Mumber has no right to put the question to me."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"In reply to the same question last time the Government said that they had no information and now they say they do not think it necessary to call for the same. Sir, have we no privileges ? Is it not the duty of the Government to give us the information we want in the interests of the public ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think the hon. Member has got various ways of expressing his dissatisfaction on the way in which the Government answer the questions put to them, and the budget time is the best opportunity."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—"May I know whether the hon. the Law Member is replying these questions, without going into the merits of the case, but merely from a personal knowledge of the particular officer concerned ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Yes, prima facie."

Jails

Improvement of the quality of water-supplied in the Coimbatore Central Jail.

*1622 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the quality of water in the wells of the Coimbatore Central Jail, and if so, with what result ; and

(b) if no steps have so far been taken thereon, what steps Government propose to take now to give a better supply of water to the jail ?

A.—(a) & (b)—All drinking water in the jail is regularly chlorinated and the chlorinated samples are reported to be of excellent quality by the Director of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine.

State Prisoners

Release of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon.

*1623 Q.—Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether an hon. Member of this House along with another gave an undertaking as required by the Government for the purpose of getting Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon released ?

A.—An hon. Member of this House and another gave an undertaking on behalf of Narayana Menon but it did not meet the requirements which the Government considered indispensable.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" The Government say ' An hon. Member of this House and another gave an undertaking on behalf of Narayana Menon but did not meet the requirements which the Government considered indispensable.' May I know what are the requirements ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code says that the person concerned ought to give his consent and he has not done so."

Railways

Closing of the Trikanad flag station on the South Indian Railway.

* 1624 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : With reference to question No. 1364 answered on 1st February 1929 regarding the closing of the Trikanad station on the South Indian Railway, will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Director of Fisheries has been consulted by either the Government or the South Indian Railway authorities regarding the closing of the Trikanad flag station and what his report is ; and

(*b*) whether Government have decided to request the Agent of the South Indian Railway to re-open the station ?

A.—(*a*) The Director of Fisheries was not consulted by the Government, as already stated in reply to clause (*d*) of question No. 1364. The Government have no information whether the Railway authorities consulted the Director of Fisheries.

(*b*) No.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I enquire whether the Government have made up their minds finally not to ask the South Indian Railway to reopen the station ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" We see no reason to continue the discussion with the Railway authorities."

Arms and Ammunitions

Issue of licences for arms to officials and non-officials.

* 1625 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any persons whether officials or non-officials are accorded free licences to carry arms ; and

(*b*) if so, what the qualifications are which entitle one to a free licence ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The hon. Member is referred to Schedule VII of the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, published with the notification of the Government of India, Home Department, No. F. 829/I-22, dated 3rd November 1923, and republished at pages 1302—1340 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 27th November 1923.